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Letter dated 26 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 June 2002 addressed to you by Aytuğ Plümer, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

25 June 2002

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 28 May 2002 (A/56/966-S/2002/587) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, raising questions in relation to the recent visit of the Turkish oceanographic research vessel *Piri Reis* to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following.

At the outset, I wish to underline that the protestation by the Greek Cypriot representative is totally unwarranted and misleading, as it emanates from the Greek Cypriot's side's unfounded claim to be the sole sovereign authority over the whole island. The reality is that the Greek Cypriot Administration has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Therefore, the so-called declaration by the Greek Cypriot side on the closure of certain ports that are under the control of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The navigation of ships in the territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the use of port facilities take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. In this context, the visit of the above-mentioned vessel to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States that recognize each other.

I would also like to point out that the geological and geophysical research activities by said vessel have been conducted within the limits of the continental shelf and the territorial waters of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. These activities are under the jurisdiction of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and are conducted within their own territorial waters in accordance with international law. All activities in this field have been carried out with due regard to international regulations and in a manner in which the interests of third parties are duly protected. Every necessary measure has been taken to ensure that international navigation in the region is not affected in any way.

It should be recalled in this connection that since the beginning of 2001, a considerable number of seismic research activities have been conducted in the eastern Mediterranean, especially in the open seas to the east, south and south-west of the island. A number of these research activities have been carried out by ships flying the Greek Cypriot flag. During this period, the Greek Cypriot Administration has also been engaged in the unilateral exploration of ocean-bed resources. These activities will, needless to say, have negative repercussions on the search for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus and also on the stability of the eastern Mediterranean region.

The Greek Cypriot policy of tension and the accompanying barrage of unfounded allegations demonstrate that the Greek Cypriot side is far from coming to terms with the reality in Cyprus, i.e., the existence of two separate sovereign States representing the two peoples. At a time when the two sides are engaged in direct talks on the basis of the agreement reached between President Denktaş and

Mr. Clerides on 4 December 2001 (S/2002/1162, annex), the persistent claim of the Greek Cypriot Administration to be the sole sovereign authority over the whole island is the real provocation and an impediment to a negotiated settlement. Furthermore, the threat posed to the prevailing peace and stability on the island by the excessive build-up of arms and armed forces by the Greek Cypriot side is self-evident. The likely repercussions of the rearmament campaign of the Greek Cypriot side and the ongoing implementation of the "joint military doctrine" with Greece on the ongoing direct talks between the two parties in Cyprus should be kept in mind.

I trust that all parties who wish to contribute to the efforts for the finding of a solution to the Cyprus issue will see to it that the Greek Cypriot side abandons its policy of tension and unilateral actions, which threaten peace and stability in our region.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus